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THE MONTHLY GULL BULLETIN

AUDUBON ASSOCIATION OF THE PACIFIC

VOLUME 8 SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA, NOVEMBER, 1926 NUMBER 11 [11. 11]

NOVEMBER MEETING: The next regular meeting of the Association will be held on Thursday evening, the eleventh inst., at eight o'clock in the Board Room of the State Board of Harbor Commissioners, Ferry Building, 2nd floor, Room 19.

The feature of the evening will be an address by Mr. O. J. Heinemann, on the subject, "Notes on Bird Photography."

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NOVEMBER FIELD TRIP will be taken on Sunday, November 14th, to the University Campus, Berkeley. San Francisco members will take 8:40 a. m. Key Route boat, transferring to "Berkeley" train at mole, and ride to end of line at University and Shattuck Avenues, where party will form upon arrival of train at 9:20 a. m. East Bay members may reach this point by either College, Telegraph, Shattuck or Grove cars. Bring lunch and canteens.

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PROCEEDINGS OF THE OCTOBER MEETING: The one hundred-fifteenth regular meeting of the Association was held on October 14th, in the Board Room of the State Board of Harbor Commissioners, with Mr. Carl Smith, president, in the chair; Mr. Parry, Secretary; twenty-three members and friends present.

The new meeting place is a delightful room, and the Association owes Mr. Lastreto a vote of thanks for procuring the same for our use.

Mr. H. W. Carrigar entertained those present with an interesting account of the nesting habits of California birds and those listening will agree that a great deal of pleasure and information can be obtained by observing birds during the nesting season, and that the Association might well plan a trip to Lake Merced, as well as to a few proven localities during the spring season in order to study this particular phase of bird life.

A few accounts from Lake Merced were: two western grebe nests with eggs, American bittern with two young in the month of June. Tule wrens, golden pileolated warblers, willow and greenbacked goldfinches, bushtits, are fairly common. The pileolated warbler often chooses the blackberry vines for a site. About a hundred pairs of yellowthroats were reported. These are now using the tules for nesting sites as the wire grass which they formerly chose has been burnt or used by the Italian vegetable growers for tying bunches of vegetables. One nest of the yellowthroat was found to contain a cowbird's egg. Mr. Carrigar tried to secure the cowbird parent for a specimen but did not succeed. The Nuttall sparrows show a partiality for the yellow lupine bushes. At the pumping station two juncos nests and a Hutton vireo's nest in a cypress tree were found.

In the southern part of Alameda County a rock wren had used a squirrel's burrow, going down about eleven inches and carrying in a half dozen small stones. In a cave some eleven miles from Livermore, Alameda County, while locating a buzzard's nest a canyon wren's home was discovered. A match had to be struck in order to see the nest in a niche.

In certain localities the California towhee seems to be diminishing in numbers due to the hunting of the birds by foreigners.

Mr. Carrigar told of many other birds but those mentioned above suffice to show that we have many worthwhile opportunities for study near at home.

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Mr. Harold E. Hanson, who spoke before the Association in September, has very kindly compiled a list of

BIRDS SEEN IN THE CAZADERO REGION, SONOMA COUNTY, DURING THE MONTHS OF JUNE AND JULY, 1926

1. TURKEY BUZZARD: Number of these birds seen in the vicinity of the Camp grounds.
2. WESTERN RED-TAILED HAWK: This hawk is seen only occasionally.
3. SPARROW HAWK: Occasionally.
4. GREAT BLUE HERON: Found feeding along the creek in the early morning.
5. ANTHONY GREEN HERON: Has been seen both in Cazadero and along the creek bordering the Boy Scout Camp grounds.
6. COAST JAY: Numerous.
7. CALIFORNIA JAY: Seen in lesser quantities.
8. SOOTY GROUSE: Found in partly wooded hills back of the Scout Camp.
9. CALIFORNIA VALLEY QUAIL.
10. NORTHWESTERN RAVEN: Seen on several occasions.
11. WESTERN MOURNING DOVE.
12. BELTED KINGFISHER.
13. VAUX SWIFT.
14. NORTHERN VIOLET GREEN SWALLOW.
15. BARN SWALLOW: Seen at Duncan Mills.
16. BUSHTIT.
17. GOLDEN PILEOLATED WARBLER: Found along the banks of the stream.
18. LUTESCENT WARBLER.
19. WESTERN FLYCATCHER: Found nesting in camp grounds.
20. WESTERN WOOD PEE-WEE.
21. WESTERN BLACK PHOEBE.
22. CALIFORNIA BROWN CREEPER.
23. NUTHATCH—Slender billed.
24. BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK.
25. WESTERN TANAGER: Seen with young.
26. BREWER BLACKBIRD: Seen at Duncan Mills.
27. BI-COLORED BLACKBIRD: Found around Duncan Mills.
28. KILLDEER: Found around Duncan Mills.
29. HUTTON VIREO.
30. VIGORS WREN.
31. HOUSE WREN: This wren found in abandoned orchard above Cazadero.
32. LAZULI BUNTING.
33. CALIFORNIA WOODPECKER: Very common.
34. WILLOW WOODPECKER: Seen in number of orchards.
35. NORTHERN PILEOLATED WOODPECKER: Found in camp grounds.
36. WESTERN BLUEBIRD: With young.
37. RED SHAFTER FLICKER.
38. RUSSET-BACKED THRUSH.
39. WESTERN ROBIN.
40. WESTERN SPOTTED SANDPIPER: Found breeding on banks of stream in vicinity of Boy Scout Camp.
41. WATER OUZEL: Nesting pairs of these birds may be seen on a number of streams around the Scout Camp.
42. CALIFORNIA BROWN TOWHEE.
43. WESTERN CHIPPING SPARROW.
44. NUTTALL SPARROW: Found around Duncan Mills.
45. SONG SPARROW.
46. GREEN-BACKED GOLDFINCH: Found around Duncan Mills.

47. WILLOW GOLDFINCH: Found around Duncan Mills.
48. CALIFORNIA LINNET.
49. PINE SISKIN.
50. CALIFORNIA CHICKADEE.
51. SIERRA JUNCO: Nesting.

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SUGGESTIONS FOR BIRDING WHILE ON AN EASTERN TRIP
(Continued)

In Boston the Department of Agriculture in the State House and the Natural History Museum are very conveniently located in the center of the city and are good sources of information. Besides the parks, the Arnold Arboretum is accessible and interesting.

One may well ask what has Babson Statistical organization to do with ornithology. Wall St. seems its only association but this is not the case. There in the beautiful Wellesley Hills twelve miles from Boston is Babson Park, a five hundred acre bird sanctuary, in the midst of which are the buildings housing the financial research departments. This is the largest bird preserve in the New England States and is under supervision of a professional ornithologist and naturalist.

All New England seems interesting bird territory only time forebade lingering everywhere. A pocket list of the birds of eastern Massachusetts with particular reference to the birds of Essex County by Albert P. Morse, published by the Peabody Academy of Science, Salem, is useful for all New England. The seasonable chart contained in the book is splendid.

Besides the books already mentioned, when visiting Quebec and Montreal, "Birds of Eastern Canada," by P. A. Taverner, No. 3 Biological Series, Geological Survey, is of assistance.

During June and July when I was traveling along the eastern coast, few water birds were seen with the exception of an occasional gull or tern. Most of these birds breed further north.

The birding possibilities around Chicago were a surprise to me. At the Field Museum I was told that the city parks afford wonderful opportunities during migration. Many of these parks are very small, at least small when compared with our Golden Gate Park, so that people are more numerous in the parks and the apartment houses border them. I found this to be the case in many cities and it seemed remarkable to me that they contained so much bird life. The Indiana Dunes, a short ride from Chicago, have the advantage of combining sand dunes, lake shore, woodland, marshy areas, and as one travels from the Dunes to Chicago there is Calumet Lake with meadows and swamps on one side and prairies on the other, giving an unusual diversification in a comparatively small territory. Skokii Marshes on the North Shore are another favorite haunt. At certain seasons of the year water birds are found along Lake Michigan. The Forest Preserves and the grounds surrounding the numerous golf courses repay a visit.

The Chicago Academy of Sciences in Lincoln Park houses many excellent bird habitat groups showing the birds of Chicago and its environs. The whole Dune region is shown, giving not only the birds but mammals, insects, reptiles, trees and flowers.

The Illinois Audubon Society publishes a booklet containing a check list of the birds of Illinois, zone map of Illinois, Key to Bird's Nests by Dr. Arthur Allen, and a comprehensive list of the birds of the State. The book sells for fifty cents and is a joy to use.

While passing through Saskatchewan on the way from Chicago to Banff, in the neighborhood of Swift Current, one could see thousands of water birds on little ponds and lakes right along the railroad tracks. It seemed to me that a stopover here would be very much worth while. Something to think about for the next time.

At Banff and Lake Louise the birds are very much the same as those found in our Rocky Mountain Park. Banff has a Natural History Museum where mounted specimens of birds found in the locality are exhibited. The museum's

publication and the one of Rocky Mountain National Park, as well as Mrs. Baily's Handbook are helpful.

The osprey nests along the streams after we left the Selkirks and before reaching Sicamous were numerous and often the young could be seen on the nests while adults were bringing back food.

JUNEA W. KELLY (MRS. G. EARLE).

(Concluded)

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OCTOBER FIELD TRIP was taken on Sunday, October 17th, to Lake Merced, following the usual course along the west and south shores of the two lakes, and out through Daly City to the Mission car line. Luncheon was eaten at the picnic grounds near the Olympic Club golf links.

The weather was warm with a heavy fog in the morning, which at the beginning of the trip seemed to make the land birds stay rather closely under cover and prevented observation of the water birds for more than a few yards from shore, but within an hour or so the fog lifted and the party was treated to a most interesting performance by a flock of more than a hundred eared grebes which seemed to be indulging in a diving contest, at times not more than a dozen grebes were visible, when suddenly great numbers would appear and start their diving all over again.

Other interesting features of the day were several cormorants with outstretched wings, perching on piles, and having the appearance of being hung up to dry. A pair of cinnamon teal held the interest of the party for a long time, the brilliant chestnut color of the male showing up beautifully in the bright sunshine. An Anna hummer and a dwarf hermit thrush vied with each other in entertaining the party during luncheon.

The real thrill of the day came when an American bittern was flushed on the small lake, past which the trail leads up through the ravine to Daly City. The bittern after being flushed, flew only a very short distance to the opposite shore and alighted apparently in plain view, but his cleverness in "freezing" made him extremely difficult to locate, his streaks and upwardly inclined bill so closely resembling the lights and shadows of the tules.

Birds encountered were: Western, eared and pied-billed grebes; western and California gulls, Farallon cormorant; cinnamon teal, canvasback, ruddy ducks; American bittern, great blue heron, black-crowned night heron, coot; long-billed dowitcher, western sand pipers, at the lakes. Elsewhere—Killdeer, California quail; sparrow hawk, red-shafted flicker; Anna hummer, Say and black phoebes; meadowlark, linnet, green-backed goldfinch, Nuttall, and golden-crowned sparrows; junco, song and fox sparrows, San Francisco towhee, California shrike; Audubon warbler, Pacific salt marsh yellowthroat; Vigors and tule wrens, chickadee; ruby-crowned kinglet, hermit thrush and robin. Forty species.

Members in attendance were: Misses Cockefair, Ethel and Martha Crum, Pringle, Werner; Mrs. Baylor, Futhey, Juda; Messrs. Bourne, Bremer, Bryant, Myer. As guests: Miss Fisher; Mrs. Bourne, Bracelen; Messrs. Crosby, Fisher, Jussel, Kenneth May; Scouts Bill Fisher, F. Juda, H. Juda, MacKenzie Gordon, Jr., and three ladies whose names were not learned as they left the party before luncheon. Twelve members and eleven guests.

C. A. BRYANT, Historian.

AUDUBON ASSOCIATION OF THE PACIFIC

FOR THE STUDY AND THE PROTECTION OF BIRDS

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Meets second Thursday of each month at 8:00 p.m., in the Board Room of the State Board of Harbor Commissioners, Ferry Building, Second Floor, Room 19.

Address Bulletin correspondence to President.

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